

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 16-57 and amend claims 58 and 66 as indicated below, wherein added material is underlined. In addition, please add new claims 71-80. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper for receiving a foot of a wearer, the upper having a medial side and a lateral side;

a sole assembly secured to the upper; and

a sealed, fluid-filled bladder having a sole portion and an integral foot portion that are in fluid communication, the sole portion being at least partially located within the sole assembly, and the foot portion extending outward from the sole portion, the foot portion extending along at least one of the medial side and the lateral side of the upper, the foot portion including a first surface and an opposite second surface, the first surface generally facing an interior of the footwear, and the second surface facing outward from the footwear, at least one bond being formed between the first surface and the second surface.

59. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein a thickness of the sole portion is greater than a thickness of the foot portion.

60. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the sole portion includes at least one channel.

61. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein a pressure of a fluid enclosed by the bladder is greater than an ambient pressure.

62. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the foot portion is positioned on an exterior of the upper.

63. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the sole portion and the foot portion are substantially perpendicular to each other.

64. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein a volume of the foot portion increases upon compressing the sole portion.

65. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the foot portion extends upward from the sole portion.

66. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper that defines a void for receiving a foot of a wearer, the upper having a medial side and a lateral side;

a sole assembly at least partially formed from a polymer foam material, the sole assembly being secured to the upper; and

a sealed bladder that encloses a pressurized fluid, the bladder having a sole portion and an integral foot portion that are in fluid communication, the sole portion being at least partially encapsulated within the polymer foam material of the sole assembly and positioned under at least a portion of the void, and the foot portion extending upward from the sole portion and along at least one of the medial side and the lateral side of the upper, the foot portion including a first surface and an opposite second surface, the first surface generally facing an interior of the footwear, and the second surface facing outward from the footwear, at least one bond being formed between the first surface and the second surface.

67. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein a thickness of the sole portion is greater than a thickness of the foot portion.

68. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein the sole portion includes at least one channel.

69. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein the sole portion and the foot portion are substantially perpendicular to each other.

70. (Previously Presented) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein a volume of the foot portion increases upon compressing the sole portion.

71. (New) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole assembly secured to the upper, the sole assembly including a fluid-filled bladder comprising:

a sole portion received by an opening in the sole assembly and positioned in a generally horizontally orientation; and

a foot portion extending vertically from the sole portion to provide the bladder with a generally L-shaped configuration, the foot portion including a first surface and an opposite second surface, the first surface generally facing an interior of the footwear, and the second surface facing outward from the footwear, at least one bond being formed between the first surface and the second surface, and the foot portion being in fluid communication with the sole portion such that compression of the sole portion causes an increase in fluid pressure in the foot portion.

72. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 71, wherein the sole portion exhibits a greater thickness than the foot portion.

73. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 72, wherein the sole portion has a generally rectangular shape, and the foot portion has a generally trapezoidal shape.

74. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 71, wherein a channel is formed in at least one of the sole portion and the foot portion.

75. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 74, wherein a position of the channel corresponds with a location of the at least one bond.

76. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 71, wherein a fluid pressure in the bladder is greater than ambient pressure.

77. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 71, wherein a plurality of the at least one bond are formed between the first surface and the second surface.

78. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 77, wherein a plurality of channels are formed in at least one of the sole portion and the foot portion.

79. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 78, wherein positions of the channels correspond with locations of the plurality of the at least one bond.

80. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 71, wherein opposite sides of the sole portion are bonded together.